

A RESOLUTION

02R-1470

Councilmember C. T. Martin
(as substituted by Finance/Executive Committee)

A Resolution requesting that the Georgia General Assembly, during its 2003 ^{session} adopt legislation to amend Section 48-11-2 of the Georgia Code Annotated to allow municipalities in the State of Georgia which have a Special Entertainment Zone to levy a twenty-five (.25) cent per pack cigarette tax on sales of cigarettes

WHEREAS, it has been documented that cigarette smoking is hazardous to one's health; and

WHEREAS, this has become such a great concern that warnings have been posted on cigarette packages by the Surgeon General; and

WHEREAS, at least 10,700 people in Georgia die from smoking, and more than 1,000 deaths have been recorded due to second hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$1.7 billion is spent annually on health care expenses related to cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the loss of productivity alone costs \$2.73 billion in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry, through, its advertising campaigns, are targeting the nation's youth, and published research studies have found that children are three times more sensitive to tobacco advertising than adults and more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure;

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal is to reduce the use of tobacco-related products, thereby reducing the nation's healthcare costs, and improving the overall health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that there is a direct correlation between the cost of tobacco products and its use; and

WHEREAS, Georgia has not had a tax increase on cigarettes since 1971, and it ranks 46th in nation in taxes charged on cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, many states have raised their cigarette tax rates, and/or allowed cities to levy a cigarette; and

WHEREAS, in all of these jurisdictions, the tax increases reduced cigarette consumption; and

WHEREAS, these states/cities have enjoyed increased tax revenues, despite the reduction in smoking and cigarette sales; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia collects only twelve cents (.12) taxes per pack in revenue, (states' average rank 48.2 cents per pack); and

WHEREAS, in a Statewide survey performed by the Mellman Group, the findings indicate that Georgians would support an increase in cigarette taxes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and the City of Atlanta could benefit greatly from an increased cigarette tax.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA requests that the Georgia State Legislature amend Section 48-11-2 of the Georgia Code Annotated to allow municipalities, that have Special Entertainment Zones to levy a **twenty-five cent** per pack cigarette tax on local sales.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposal be made a part of the city's 2003 legislative package

PROPOSAL FOR THE 2003 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES WITH SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT ZONES TO LEVY A TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (.25) TAX ON CIGARETTES

NATION

Smoking kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined

Each pack of cigarettes sold in the United States costs the nation \$7 in medical costs and lost productivity

Smoking results in approximately 440,000 deaths a year in the United States

Smoking costs an average man to lose 13 years of life; the average woman, 14.5 years

Smoking during pregnancy caused approximately 1,000 infant deaths each year

GEORGIA

10,700 persons die from cigarette smoking

At least 10,000 children under 18 years of age try cigarettes for the first time each year

Secondhand smoke kills approximately 1,500 deaths per year

The State of Georgia spends \$1.75 million on smoking-caused health problems annually; it collects \$81.1 million in cigarette taxes.

The goal of this legislation is twofold: the first is to make the cost of cigarettes cost prohibitive, especially for children; the second goal is to realize some revenue, at the local level, from the sale of cigarettes.

The City spends numerous dollars annually (1) cleaning cigarette debris (butts) out of its sewers, (2) fighting fires caused by Cigarettes, (3) cleaning up our streams and (4) loss of productivity of its employees

FINANCIAL IMPACT FOR CITY OF ATLANTA - \$9 to \$11 million.